Transient Flower

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by Harumi Chihiro

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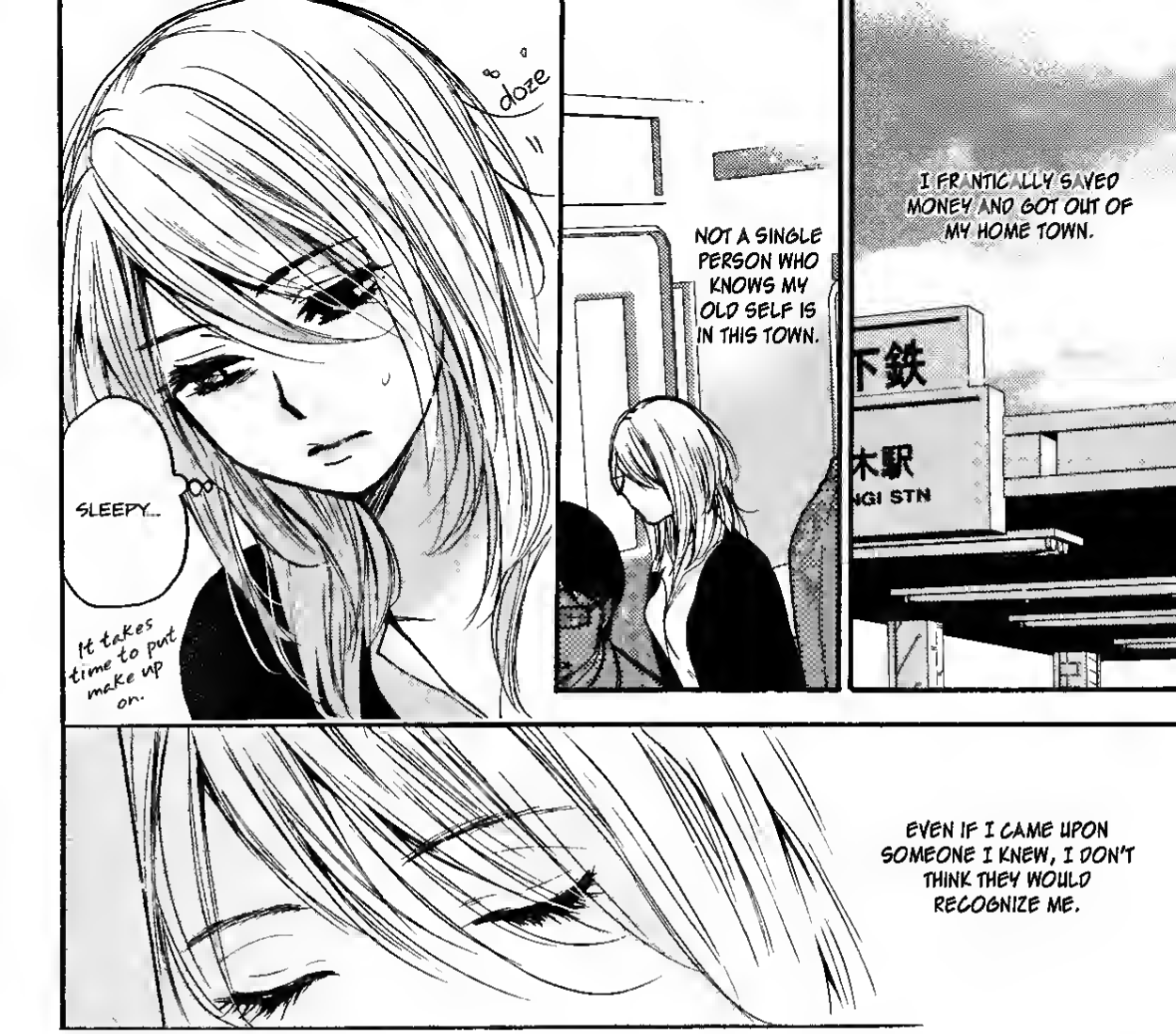
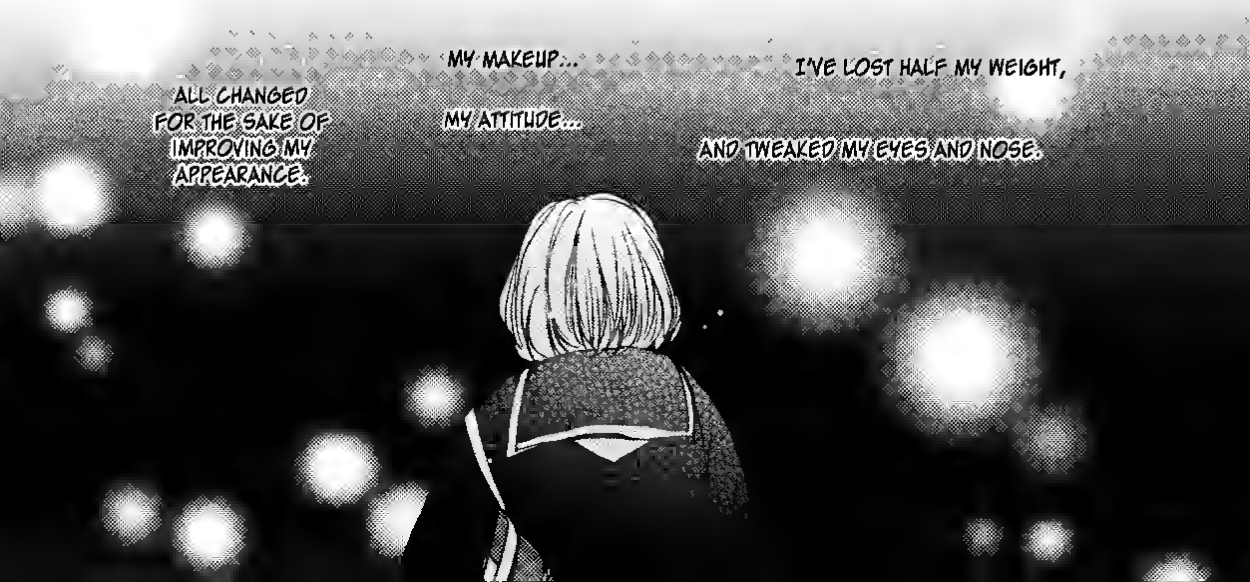
WELL, THERE'S A FACE I'M NOT USED TO SEEING IN THE MIRROR.
EVERY TIME, WITHOUT FAIL, I'M SURPRISED.
TREMBLE
OH,
IT'S ME.
I WONDER WHEN I'LL GET USED TO IT.
I UNDERWENT PLASTIC SURGERY.


doze
SLEEPY...
It takes time to put make up on.
NOT A SINGLE PERSON WHO KNOWS MY OLD SELF IS IN THIS TOWN.
I FRANTICALLY SAVED MONEY AND GOT OUT OF MY HOME TOWN.
下鉄
木駅
NGI STN
EVEN IF I CAME UPON SOMEONE I KNEW, I DON'T THINK THEY WOULD RECOGNIZE ME.


MY MAKEUP...
I'VE LOST HALF MY WEIGHT,
ALL CHANGED FOR THE SAKE OF IMPROVING MY APPEARANCE.
MY ATTITUDE...
AND TWEAKED MY EYES AND NOSE.

Don't get near me!
So gross...
My eyes are rotting!
Ugly...
AFTER I CHANGED MY FACE, THE WORLD CLEARLY CHANGED.
I THINK IT'S TRUE THAT LOOKS ARE 90 PERCENT.
Good morning, Taka-i-san.
Morning, Saya-chan.
Good morning.

Date me.
Why?
We haven't spoken much, have we?
I've always watched you,
and thought you were cute.
You're always smiling.
Your smile...
I WONDER IF MY CLASSMATES WHO SAID SUCH THINGS AT THE TIME WOULD TRY TO SEDUCE ME LIKE THIS.
"What are you grinning for?"
"It's disgusting..."

Is that okay with you?
But, I'm already three-timing.
!
Sure.
Let's date.
Are you shocked?
I'm dating three other people.
...Wait...
What?
You're appalled, right?
...Wha-
Are you disappointed?
What are you...

I lied.
It's only two people.
...
You're the worst...
mutter
SLAM
IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT FOR NOT REALIZING HOW BAD MY PERSONALITY IS.
...I WONDER IF HE WAS PROPERLY HURT?
I'M FINE WITH BEING RESENTED AND HATED,
BECAUSE I'M USED TO IT.

I'M ALSO FINE WITH BEING BAD-MOUTHED.
See you later.
What a bitch.
So bad...
Reeks of plastic surgery.
BECAUSE I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER BE HAPPY.
I DON'T MIND BEING RESENTED IN RETURN, OR EVEN BEING KILLED,
...Hey,
turn out the lights.
AND THAT'S NOT WHY I HAD PLASTIC SURGERY.

No way.
I won't be able to see your face.
What... come on...
it's embar-rassing.
I'll laugh...
Look this way.
grab
...
...Ah.
Saya,
you're so cute.
...
THIS PERSON...

...What?
It's nothing.
I WONDER IF HE'LL FALL OVER WITH SURPRISE
I SHOULD HAVE LEFT SOME PHOTOS AROUND
Oh, a split end.
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF FACE HE'LL MAKE WHEN HE SEES A PICTURE OF THE OLD ME...
doze off
WHEN THESE LOOKS EXPIRE,
I'LL MAKE SURE TO DISAPPEAR AS PAINFULLY AS POSSIBLE.
IN YOUR FACE.

...Hm?
Um, I didn't order this.
There's an extra...
!
Shh!
A freebie!
Since you've been looking anemic lately.
Please eat properly.
...Thanks.
No problem!
Good luck with your afternoon work.
smile

...PEOPLE LIKE HIM...
THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'VE BEEN SURROUNDED BY LOVE SINCE THEY WERE BORN.
munch
HE PROBABLY DOESN'T HAVE ANY REASON TO RESENT OR BE JEALOUS...
I ENVY HIM...
...HE HAS A WELL-SCULPTED FACE.
I WONDER IF HE EVER WORRIES ABOUT ANY-THING.
...
...Huh?
...M-me?

Yeah.
You don't want to?
If you don't want to, we can just be friends.
No, it's not that I don't want to...
It's just... are you sure it's all right?
blush
Someone as beautiful as you being with someone like me...
I'm not beautiful.
No, um...
Err...

Ah,
Sorry,
It's because of all the kitchen work...
Your hands are rough...
as I thought.
Ah, I see.
panic
Wha...
Wow.
Hey, what's your name?
Ka- Kawahara... Suguru...
Suguru- kun...
POOR SUGURU- KUN.

I HOPE THE FIRST PERSON YOU RESENT WILL BE ME.
I WONDER... WHAT KIND OF FACE WILL YOU MAKE WHEN YOU GET ANGRY AT ME?
WHAT KIND OF...

HOW MUCH PAIN YOU'LL SUFFER.
You can move as much as you like.
O-okay...
I just thought you were in pain.
...It doesn't hurt.
I'm fine.
Are you sure?
I'm fine, I'm fine.
...Saya-san,
I like you.

I like you a lot.
...Yeah...
Takai-san?
Long time no see!
Wow...
you've gotten prettier since the last time I saw you.
Is that all?

I looked at your old photos...
after being dumped.
What did you change this time?
So I guess it's true, I heard plastic surgery is addictive.
I had lingering feelings,
so I looked up a lot of stuff about you.
And then...
I threw up.
I couldn't believe I was dating...
something like that.
You've changed so much,
it's creepy.

I feel sorry for the guy who's dating you now.
I wonder how he'd feel if I told him the truth?
So...
What do you want?
You want to blackmail me and extort money?
...
If you want to tell him the truth, go ahead.
I was going to throw him away like I did with you, anyway.
What the fuck...?
I didn't change my face to get someone to love me.

I only did it to hurt men like you.

ugly.
...you creep me out.
Scary.
What the hell does that mean?
...What the hell?

...Hello, Suguru-kun.
It's me.
...Yeah.
Well then, I'll come over now.
I JUST WANT TO HURT AND HURT...
TO MAKE THEM FEEL THE SAME WAY I FELT...
AND MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND THAT PAIN.

THAT DAY,
I,
LIKE YOU,
ALSO HAD
A HEART THAT COULD ACHE.

THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED.
IF I WERE STRONGER,
I WISH I HAD EARS THAT COULDN'T HEAR HURTFUL WORDS.
I WISH THIS UNFAMILIAR FACE WAS MINE TO BEGIN WITH.
I'VE BECOME SO JADED...
Wow... what's going on?
Really... thanks.
I just happened to find it.
It's hand cream.
Supposedly, it works really well.
I just felt like eating it. It's just a normal souvenir.
Oh, and this.
This stuff is expensive, isn't it?
Was there something special about today?

squeeze
I'll put it on for you later.
What?
Did something good happen today?
Hmm...
...What happened?
Seriously
Well...
Hey, what if I was actually really ugly?
What do you mean?
Is that even possible?
What if I was?
...I wouldn't... really care.

I THINK HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.
EVEN IF HE FINDS OUT,
I THINK HE'LL JUST BE SAD I HID IT,
BECAUSE HE'S A GOOD GUY.
EVEN IF IT'S A LIE...
Suguru-kun.
I wish we went to middle school together.
What...?
?
NOT WANTING TO HURT HIM NOW,
OR EVEN WANTING TO BE LOVED...
Suguru-kun...

I WISH I DISAPPEARED BEFORE I BECAME ASHAMED OF MYSELF.
Let me stay over tonight.
I'll make you breakfast,
and your room is messy so we have to do something about it.
Hey, it's not messy!
It is.

Does it sting?
It's okay.
I hope it gets better soon.
Saya-san...
you don't have to put it on so carefully.
Uh huh...
rub rub
kiss

...It'll come off.
We'll just put it on again later.
...mmm...
WHEN THIS PERSON SLEEPS, I'LL LEAVE.

THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME.
JUST ONCE MORE...
I'M SORRY.
Fin